



Severe Weather Awareness Week



April 30th to May 6th, 2017

Severe Thunderstorms

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Binghamton NY

Severe Thunderstorms

A storm which produces hail 1 inch in diameter or larger and/or wind gusts 58 mph or stronger.



Severe Thunderstorm Characteristics

- Persistent – long lasting
- Strong updrafts & downdrafts
- Large hail
- Strong winds
- A rotating storm
- Well organized



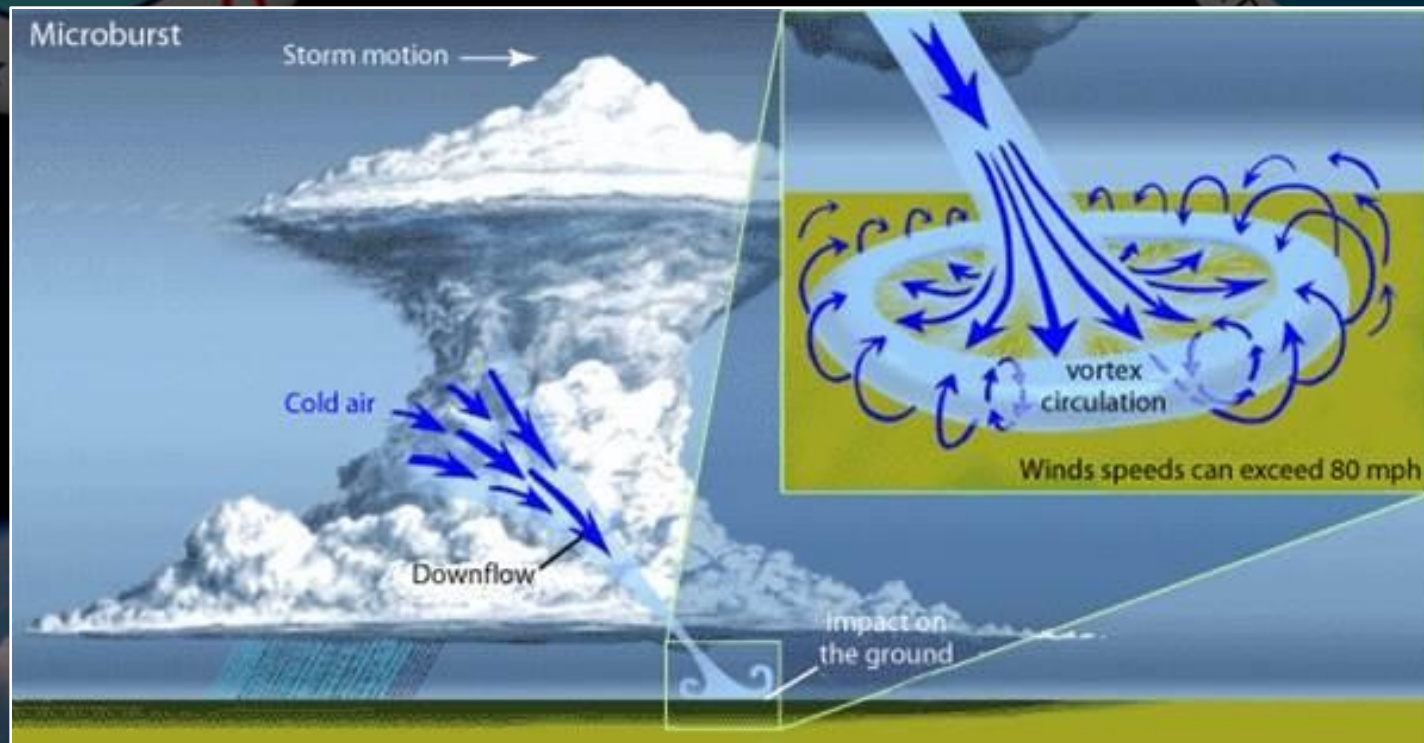
Severe Thunderstorms Produce Damaging Winds

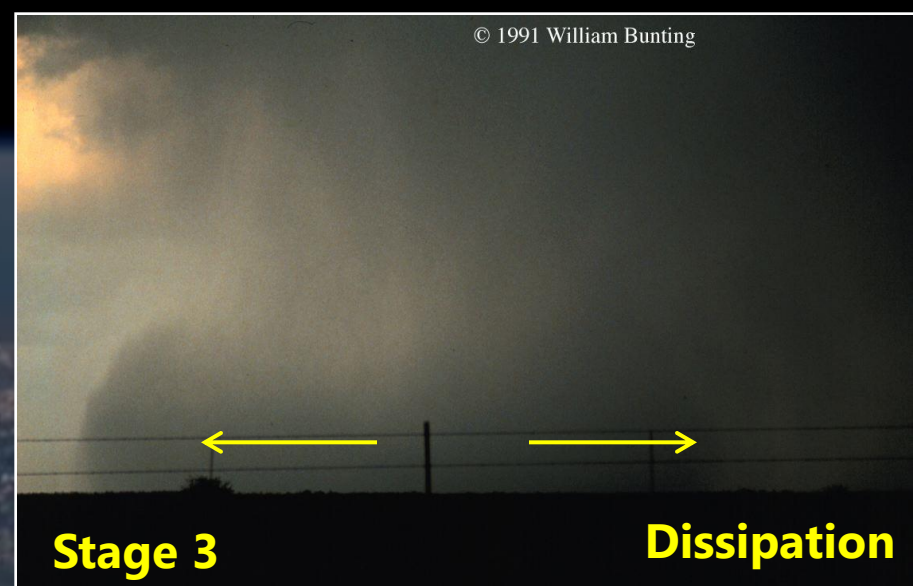
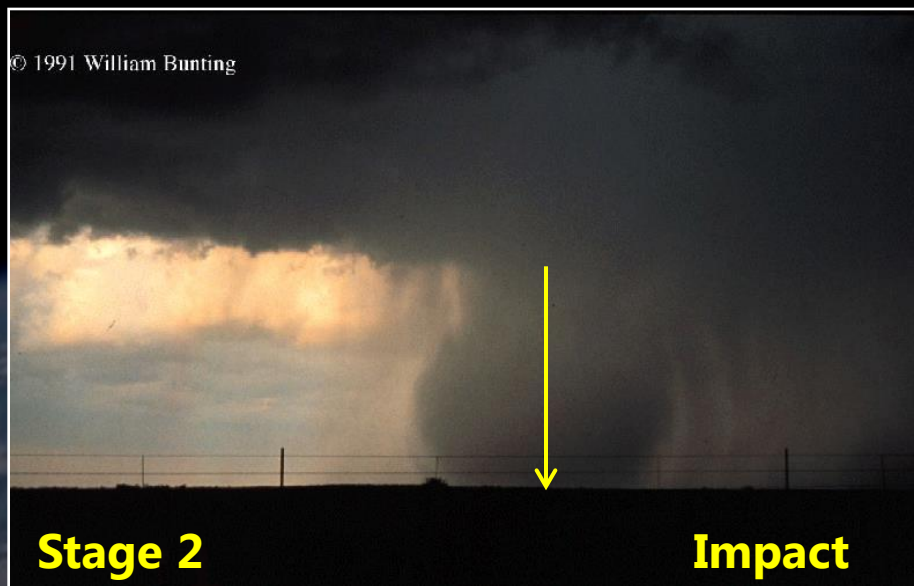
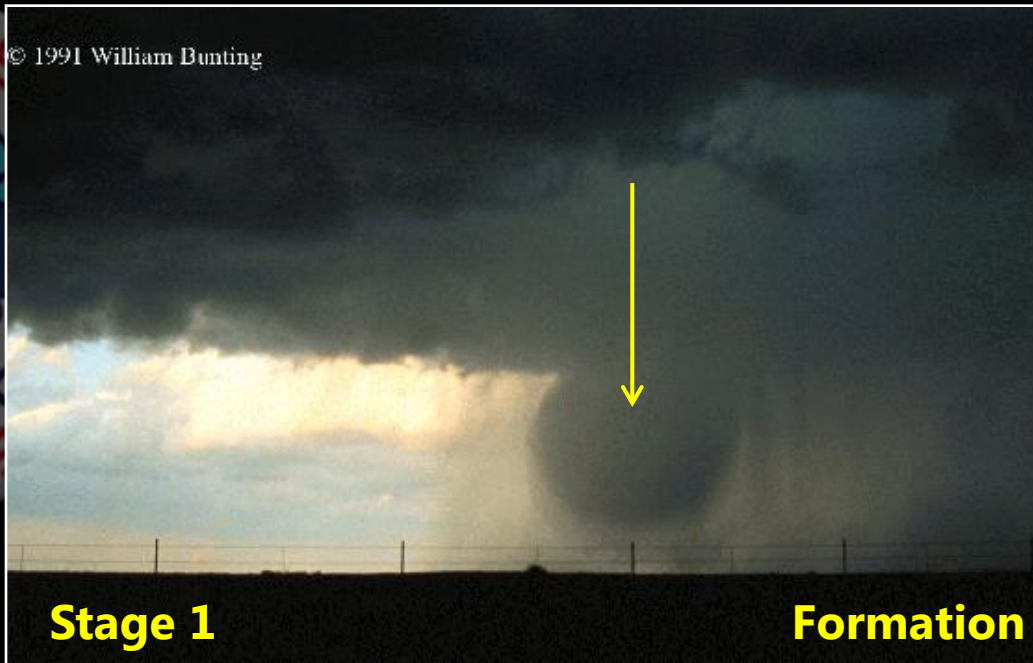
- Thunderstorm winds 58 mph or stronger may cause structural damage to buildings. Stronger winds can cause trees to uproot.
- Severe thunderstorms create life threatening conditions for recreational boaters.



Severe Thunderstorms Can Produce Downbursts

A powerful downward movement of air (a downdraft) in a severe thunderstorm. Winds can be as strong as 80 to 100 mph.

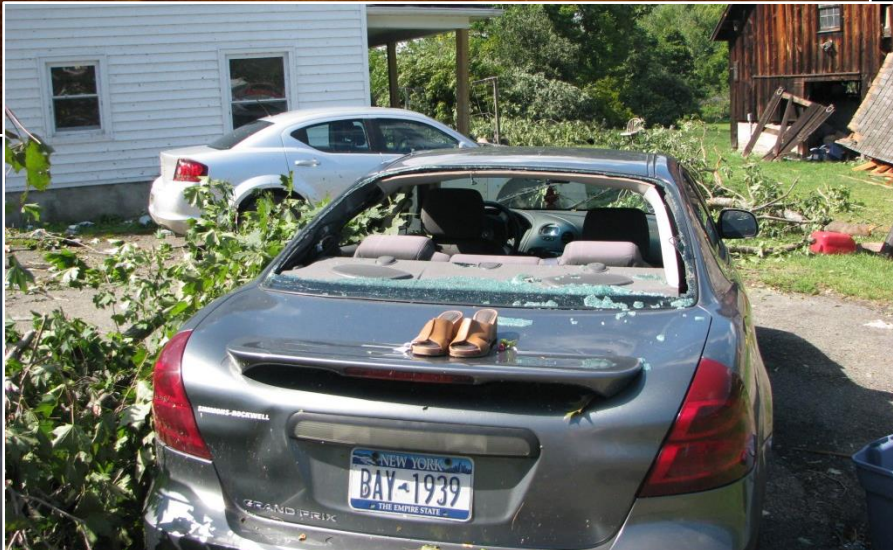




Downburst/Microburst Damage Spreads Outwards



Severe Thunderstorms Can Produce Large Hail



Hail causes billions of dollars in damages to crops and properties each year.

Hail Size



The diameter of this enormous hailstone is measured to be over 5 inches!

Use hail estimation cards, rulers, calipers or loose change to measure hail.



Photo: Larry Taylor



Hail comes in many shapes and sizes. Hail can be as small as peas and as large as a computer CD-DVD. Giant hail is extremely rare and usually found in the great plains.

Hail Diameter Size	Description
1/4"	Pea
1/2"	Plain M&M
3/4"	Penny
7/8"	Nickel
1" (severe)	Quarter
1 1/4"	Half Dollar
1 1/2"	Walnut/Ping Pong Ball
1 3/4"	Golf Ball
2"	Hen Egg/Lime
2 1/2"	Tennis Ball
2 3/4"	Baseball
3"	Teacup/Large Apple
4"	Grapefruit
4 1/2"	Softball
4 3/4" - 5"	Computer CD-DVD

WATCH vs. WARNING

CAUTION

- Check the forecast often
- Monitor the skies
- Know where to take shelter

DANGER

- Take shelter immediately!
- Seek further information
- Monitor the forecast

Watch- "Be Prepared"

Conditions are favorable for severe weather in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

Warning- "Take Action"

The severe weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned area. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods and river flooding. Issued by NWS Binghamton for central New York and northeast Pennsylvania.